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legislatures are so busy with the subject that the present laws will soon be out of date; but the discussion of history and principles will remain useful, and the book will be a milestone for future students.

One deplorable fact in the situation is brought out by the analysis of the laws thus far passed: they lack a unifying principle. There is no national and scientific investigation at the foundation of our laws; there is no agreement among legislators; there is only a hasty reflex response to the stimulus of a discovery of intolerable injustice in all past statutes and judicial decisions. We cannot hope for a really scientific system until the nation finds a way to control a movement in which state lines have not the slightest significance except as artificial barriers. Up to this time we must regard all laws yet passed as experiments in vivisection, inspired by the pious hope that out of this welter some order may at last be evolved, no one knows how. As evidence of a fine humanitarianism these acts are valuable; but the time is not distant when this entire contradictory mass of makeshifts must be cast aside for an adequate, consistent, scientific, national system. Such a system will include not only accident insurance but also sickness insurance which is vastly more important; and insurance of widows and orphans; unemployment, invalidism, and old-age insurance. No one has ever yet attempted to measure the annual loss from needless and preventable worry.

C. R. HENDERSON

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Crime and Its Repression. By GUSTAV ASCHAFFENBURG; translated by A. ALBRECHT. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1913.

The translation of this very significant German book will make it accessible to a wider public in the English-speaking world and enlarge its wholesome influence. In the realm of the abnormal the psychiatrist has a right to be heard, and the jurist ought to listen. The fundamental conception of this work is that criminality, anti-social conduct, is the effect of discoverable and already known causes; that the obvious duty and interest of society is to remove those causes or diminish their activity as rapidly as possible; that it is futile to attempt measured retribution according to the degree of ill-desert; that all our energy should be devoted to effective means for protecting society.

Crime is not a disease transmitted by inheritance or inoculated by contact; it is an acquired habit into which people with weak character

most easily fall under trying conditions. Alcohol and poverty are the chief incentives to harmful conduct; so that control of the liquor traffic and improved economic conditions are among the most hopeful methods of social defense. Imprisonment has little deterrent effect on those who are once or twice incarcerated, and it does not often reform. The reformatory effect would be increased by the indeterminate sentence which makes freedom depend on improved conduct. At this point ideas long since familiar and accepted in the United States are strongly defended.

The statistics used in the study of crime causes are generally taken from the excellent German tables, with which, unfortunately, we have in this country nothing comparable. The author's treatment makes us eager to have similar figures for our own scientific studies of criminality. Taken altogether, this work is a notable contribution and the translation is a distinct public service.

C. R. HENDERSON

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Le divorce des aliénés. By DOCTOR LUCIEN-GRAUX. Paris: Grand Librairie Médicale A. Maloine, 1912.

In connection with drafts of law submitted to the French legislature, Doctor Lucien-Graux has brought together a large amount of important materials for a consideration of the complex question of divorce in case of insanity. The letters published represent all views of the subject of divorce in general and of this problem in particular. There is an evident desire to be impartial and to make a substantial contribution to the discussion.

C. R. HENDERSON

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Sixth Annual Report of the State Probation Commission of New York. New York, 1912.

This is an important document, including the report and statistics of the Commission of New York, the proceedings of the State Conference of Magistrates, and of the Probation Officers, and with a directory of officials and tables of statistics. It is one of the important contributions to the subject of probation.

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